

Basis of Boer Contention

The following is the address delivered Monday last by Hon. E. J. Cornish at the meeting called in sympathy with the Boers:

"As I have never expressed myself on the British-Boer controversy, I appreciate the compliment involved in being invited to address this meeting—the committee assuming that I would be found on the side they conceive to be the cause of freedom. I do myself and you an injustice, however, in appearing before you, because I must confess that I am not sufficiently informed as to the facts to discuss the subject properly.

"The existence in the Transvaal of gold and diamond mines of inestimable value casts a suspicion on all reported causes of the war. Nothing is more universally taught in history than that greed is ever accompanied by cant, hypocrisy and fraud. The real motives are disguised, facts discolored and force justified by a specious, fictitious plea. To give an instance from our own history: Our minister to Texas in 1843, when advocating the annexation of that territory as necessary to the existence and extension of slavery, closed his letter with the words: 'Say nothing about slavery. Do not offend our fanatical brethren of the north. Talk about civil and political and religious liberty. This will be found the safest issue to go before the world with.'

"Similar deceit was practiced by the English in the revolutionary war. There has never been a war of conquest that was not justified by the pretext that it was to spread the gospel or in some other way to benefit the people to be conquered. The tendency to hide selfish motives behind neighboring virtues induced Dr. Johnson to define 'patriotism as the last refuge of a scoundrel' and Roscoe Conkling to say that 'Dr. Johnson was not familiar with the then undeveloped resources of the word "reform."'

English Sentiment Divided.

"Those who, like myself, have been wont to look upon England as the most liberal and progressive of European powers, whose policy of the open door and unrestricted trade is opening the ports of the world to commerce, steam, electricity, education and Christianity—the true civilizing agencies of the world—should pause in their approval of her course when they find the present war opposed by such men as Herbert Spencer, James Bryce, William Harcourt, Sir Edward Clarke and our own Carnegie.

"Every land has its jingoes. Love seems most sincere when it blinds one to deformities. Patriotism seems most worthy when it excuses error. 'Our country, right or wrong,' is a saying seldom used except to justify wrong. Few have the courage and exalted patriotism to say, 'Our country—when right, to be kept right; when wrong, to be put right.' But the men I have named, though intensely English, are of such exalted character and ability and influence that they belong to no nation, but to the world, and their disapproval is of weight and challenges consideration of the merits of the war.

"This country has ever stood for the idea that the standard by which the conduct of nations is to be measured is to be found in the conscience of civilized man and not in the ability to enforce submission by the sword. With us the God of Battles is not always the God of Justice. This presupposes certain abstract ideas of right and wrong. We have established these in our Declaration of Independence. Lincoln called them the 'definitions and axioms of free society.' They are: All men are equal in respect of their rights; every man born into this earth has a right to live upon this earth in the land of his fathers; a people cut off from other people by racial characteristics and

well-defined natural boundaries have a right to a government of their own that derives its just powers from the consent of the governed.

The Standard of Justice.

"These ideas form our standard of justice. The declaration of them revolutionized the thought of the world. Governments formerly had been leaders defied by their subjects; then by those descended from such gods or Jove-descended, as they were called; then by God's anointed, sovereignty always resting in the ruler. Even the Magna Charta was a grant of certain privileges by the crown, the source of power, to the people, the crown reserving all powers not granted. With us, however, the sovereign people, the source of power, granted to the government created by them certain powers—the people reserving all powers not granted.

"Measured by our standard, therefore, the little republic has a right to exist and have its rights respected by all the powers.

"These principles, however, must not be carried to illogical conclusions. The Pilgrim fathers could not rightfully have laid claim to all the land between the Atlantic and Pacific not occupied by them and tell all others to keep off. Neither could they rightfully arrogate to themselves and their posterity the power to govern for all time the people who came after them. Reasonable restrictions upon naturalization to insure good faith are proper. The applicant should unreservedly renounce allegiance to his former sovereign. But after inviting immigration to develop our resources and add to our wealth, to then impose unreasonable restrictions such as the twenty-one years residence proposed by the know-nothing party in 1856, is to deny equality of rights, impose taxation without representation and violate our fundamental principles of right.

"It is said the Boers have done these things. It is also said they offered to remedy the evil. I know not the facts. But if Great Britain felt called upon to interfere, the only civilized method to determine the dispute was by arbitration. There is not a government upon earth that could continue its existence if it persisted in a policy condemned by a tribunal of arbitration supported by the conscience of the civilized world.

Why Was Arbitration Refused?

"It is said the Boers asked for arbitration, thereby showing proper respect for the opinions of mankind and appealing to reason. It was denied. If a man is enough of a man to fight with he is enough of a man to reason with. If to conquer a nation is worthy the sacrifice of blood and treasure, the shocking of humanity, the staining of the last pages of the century's history, surely such a nation is worthy to be met before a court of arbitration. Before such a tribunal England should have first obtained the approval of her course which would have assured an easy victory, or failing in that have grandly yielded, proving herself as great in her moral as in her conceded physical power, and setting an example that would have benefited the world to the remotest times.

"The little band of men, at one time fleeing from place to place, finally finding an asylum on the barren plains of Africa, where they could worship God in their own manner, establish a government, republican in form, of their own choosing and work out their national destiny in their own way, now, with no remoter land to fly to, with their appeal for arbitration denied, with a courage resembling martyrdom, taking up arms against powerful, world-devouring England, in a contest that must end in the loss of their lives and property, the destruc-



DOANE COLLEGE 1899 FOOT BALL TEAM.

tion of their homes, the overthrow of their government and annihilation of their national existence, presents altogether a scene that forces the pity and admiration of mankind. Surely if they have committed wrongs bitterly do they suffer. It seems that England might say to the Boers, as Uncle Toby said to the fly, 'Go, little fly, there is room enough in this world for both you and me.'

Duty of Americans.

"But what is our duty in the premises? When our people were inclined to assist France in return for the assistance received from her, George Washington, to whom honesty of purpose gave an insight into the future, advised noninterference in European affairs. His words were words of wisdom from which we have not departed and by which we have oft been blest. We want no alliance with, we want no alliance against, England. A common language, literature and (in many respects) ideals must make the two nations co-workers in the up-building of the world.

"The field of labor of this great republic is not the battlefield. We will conquer England, we will conquer the governments of Europe, but we will conquer them by our example. We will teach them that peace is more profitable than war; that love begetting love is more civilizing than force begetting hatred; that being just is a stronger defense than fortifications; that men, brothers all, were inspired by the same breath, respond equally to the same influences and improve equally as responsibilities are placed upon them; that that society is happiest and best and most progressive where distinctions between men are destroyed, barriers to the rise of worth obliterated and the injury of the humblest member considered the serious concern of all.

When these truths once enter the hearts of European citizens tyranny in government will be overthrown forever.

"This meeting is an object lesson to ourselves. Mark it! Before me is an audience containing many who were formerly subjects of Great Britain. One would expect that they had met to extend sympathy to their mother country in its recent reverses; to do it honor, to extol its virtues, its solidity, its power upon land and sea, its system of colonizing, its common law adopted by ourselves, its jury system, its free press, free speech, free public meetings, its Magna Charta and Bill of Rights, its representative government, its reforms of the last fifty years extending the right of franchise, its protection of its citizens, its law that a man's house is his castle, its Chatham, Burke, Fox, Erskine, Gladstone. Instead of this you are met to express sympathy for its foe in arms. If Great Britain, experienced and wise in governing subject people, has been unable to obtain the affection and esteem of its nearest and most closely related subjects; if they have become more rebellious as they have become more intelligent, is it not proof conclusive that one people cannot successfully govern another people; that a race separated from other races by natural boundaries has national aspirations that cannot be suppressed; that what has the appearance of power is in fact a source of weakness? May we profit by this lesson!"

Female Distiller

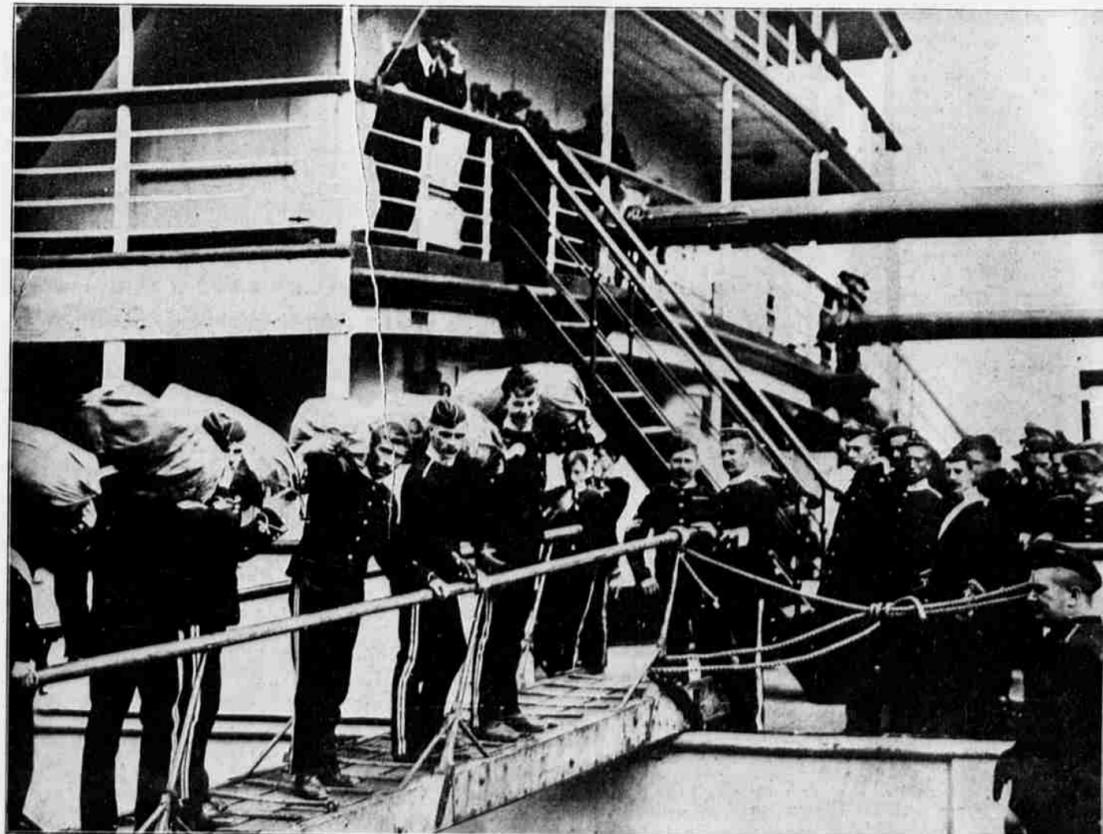
Mrs. H. Henley of Tullahoma, Tenn., successfully operates a distillery on the Cumberland plateau near her home which has a capacity of 4,000 gallons a month.

Black Cat for Luck

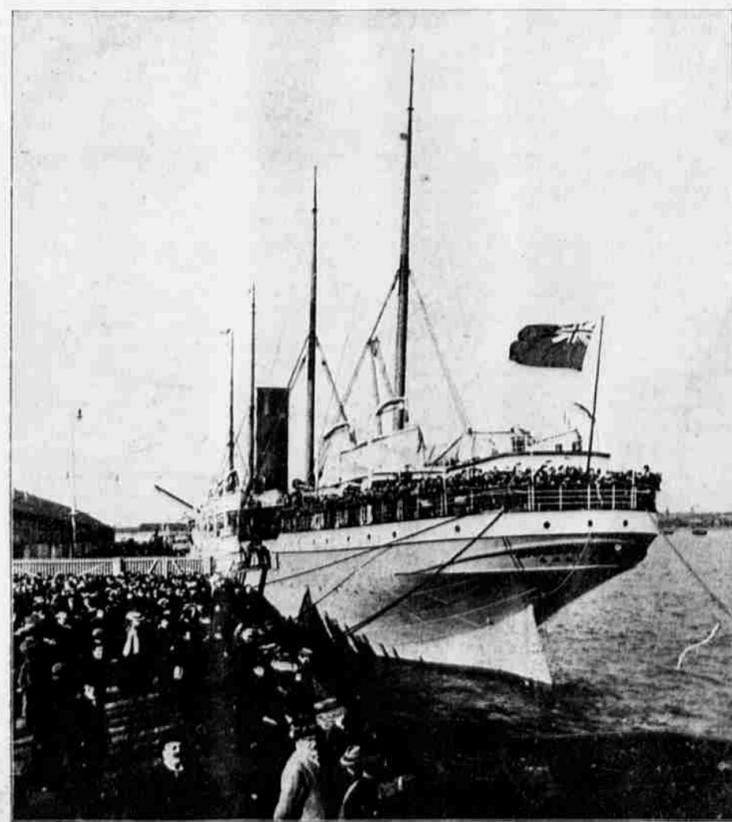
Detroit Free Press: "A black cat is awfully good luck," said the young lady in such a charming way that she could not be gainsaid. And she was serious in it, too. So the caller merely nodded assent and remarked, "Is that so? I hadn't known it." "Yes," she said, "there was a cat around here for a long time that was just as black as jet, without a white spot on it. And every once in a while it would get into the house and run around through the rooms. After every time that the cat came in here something lucky happened. Yes, sir, it was very funny, but it was so. We had the best luck you ever saw. But finally the poor thing was killed. I felt sorry about it." "Yes?" remarked the caller. "And what happened after it died? Anything disastrous?" "Oh, no; it just died, that was all; but it was awfully good luck. We've had good luck ever since it came around first."

Dress Reform in Samoa

A writer from Samoa thinks there is a great opening for dress reform among the native girls, besides a chance to boom business. The Samoan girls are very proud and vain, but on great occasions persist in wearing men's clothes and on other occasions merely kilt skirts and necklaces of sharks' teeth. Ordinarily, children wear no garments at all. The Samoan girls refuse to wear shoes and stockings, as being useless and uncomfortable burdens.



TROOPS GOING ABOARD BRAEMAR CASTLE—Photo by E. Milner, London.



BRAEMAR CASTLE WITH TROOPS ON BOARD FOR CAPE AT SOUTHAMPTON—Photo by E. Milner, London.